

**Testimony of Sarri Singer**  
**Congressional Anti-Terrorist Financing Task Force Forum**

**October 17, 2005**

Congresswoman Kelly, and Members of Congress, thank you for inviting me to participate in this forum.

My name is Sarri Singer. I am a resident of the State of New Jersey and I serve as the East Coast Director for the One Family Fund, which provides direct financial, legal, and emotional assistance to the victims of terrorism. I was visiting Israel over two years ago when I became a victim of a suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus on June 11, 2003. I am not an expert on terrorism financing or the banking system. My knowledge and experience with extremist Islamic terrorism is from my own personal experience.

I boarded bus number 14A that day nearly two years ago in Jerusalem to meet a friend for dinner. It was around five in the evening and the bus was filled with rush hour commuters. Initially I was standing by the pole in the middle of the bus, and as the bus approached the next bus stop I found a seat. Soon thereafter a suicide bomber detonated his bomb only two to three seats away from where I was seated. The bomber killed everyone where I had been standing by the pole, as well as others sitting and standing near and around me, including another American, Alan Beer, from Cleveland, Ohio. Ultimately, seventeen (17) people were killed in the attack, and over 100 people were injured.

When the explosives were detonated, I was struck with shrapnel which ripped through my shoulder and broke my clavicle. After the blast I couldn't open my left eye, and could barely see out of my right eye due to the swelling. I couldn't hear due to a loud ringing in my ears caused by the rupture of my eardrums, resulting in permanent hearing loss in my left ear. I had wounds to my face and legs, and I still have shrapnel lodged in my gums. My legs remain scarred, and I may need additional surgery on my shoulder.

The attack was perpetrated by a HAMAS suicide bomber, later identified as Abdel Madi Shabneh, an 18-year old high school student from Hebron. He had boarded the bus disguised as an Orthodox Jew. Shabneh was initially recruited by HAMAS while playing for a local Jihad Mosque soccer team. I mention this last point because it is directly relevant to the focus of today's hearing. According to many published reports, this "team" has produced five HAMAS suicide bombers. This "Band of Bombers" illustrates that radical Islamic terrorism has its institutions that operate openly through charity committees, mosque classes, student unions, sport clubs, and other organizations that lead to extremism and ultimately mass murder.

Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, President Bush designated HAMAS as Specially Designated Global Terrorists. On

December 4, 2001, the Secretary of the Treasury determined that Holy Land Foundation helped finance HAMAS and detailed how HAMAS controls numerous charitable front organizations to which the Foundation transferred millions of dollars.

I don't pretend to understand how the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designates global terrorists, but if the Holy Land Foundation was designated in large part because of its contributions to HAMAS-controlled charity committees, it's hard for an ordinary person like me to understand how, more than three years later, none of those HAMAS-controlled charity committees, like the one that sponsored the "soccer team" of suicide bombers, is currently designated.

I am not a lawyer and I don't claim to know anything about banking laws, but I do know how to use Google, Yahoo and other internet search engines. Anyone with access to the internet can locate a search engine and type "Tulkarem" and "Hamas" or "Islamic Charity Society" and "Hamas." One might very well reconsider transferring money to these organizations if one knew about the connections between them.

Common sense suggests that well-known and easily identifiable front organizations for HAMAS and other terrorist groups should not be allowed to use our financial system to raise money. I have seen and experienced the practical result of allowing terrorists the ability to operate. Everyone thinks it can't or won't happen to them – until it does. I don't want anyone else to experience what I have seen or what I have suffered. I therefore urge you in the strongest terms possible to hold the Administration's feet to the fire on this issue. Bureaucratic explanations [or legalistic evasions] aren't good enough in matters of life and death. It is imperative that you get concrete answers as to why numerous notorious HAMAS front organizations are still allowed to transfer money through the U.S. banking system.

Thank you.